

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim + 15, wherein the light-shielding layer is located below a middle portion of the first electrode.

Claim 3. (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim + 16, wherein the first electrode includes a transparent conductive material.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim + 16, wherein the second electrode includes a transparent conductive material.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim + 16, further comprising an insulating film on an entire surface of the first substrate.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, wherein the light-shielding layer is formed below a middle portion of the first electrode.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, wherein the light-shielding layer is formed below each slit pattern.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, wherein the light-shielding layer is formed below middle portions of both the first electrode and the slit patterns.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, wherein the first electrode includes a transparent conductive material.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, wherein the second electrode includes a transparent conductive material.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim & 17, further comprising forming an insulating film on an entire surface of the first substrate and the light-shielding layer.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an insulating film on a first substrate;

a first electrode having a plurality of slit patterns directly contacting the insulating film;

at least one light-shielding layer below each slit pattern;

a second electrode on a second substrate; and

a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates, the liquid crystal layer having different alignment directions by each slit pattern.

~~The device as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein both the first electrode and the light-shielding layer are within a same unit pixel region.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an insulating film on a first substrate;

a first electrode having a plurality of slit patterns directly contacting the insulating film;

at least one light-shielding layer below the first electrode and the slit patterns;

a second electrode on a second substrate; and

a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates, the liquid crystal layer having different alignment directions by each slit pattern.

~~The device as claimed in claim 4,~~ wherein both the first electrode and the light-shielding layer are within a same unit pixel region.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of fabricating a liquid crystal display device on first and second substrates, comprising:

forming at least one light-shielding layer on the first substrate;

forming an insulating layer on the entire surface of the first substrate and on the at least one light-shielding layer;

forming a first electrode directly on the insulating layer, the first electrode having a plurality of slit patterns over the light-shielding layer;

forming a second electrode on the second substrate;

assembling the first and second substrates; and

forming a liquid crystal layer having different alignment directions by each slit pattern between the first and second substrates,

~~The method as claimed in claim 8,~~ wherein both the first electrode and the light-shielding layer are within a same unit pixel region.